

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US POSITION FOR US DELEGATION TO FIRST
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO
CONVENTION CONCERNING PROTECTION OF WORLD
CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE, NOVEMBER 26,
1976

PLEASE PASS ROBERT GARVEY, MEMBER U. S. DELEGATION

1. PROBLEM. TO SECURE U. S. MEMBERSHIP ON WORLD HERITAGE
COMMITTEE (WHC) AND TO INSURE THAT OVERALL MEMBERSHIP
REFLECTS INTEGRITY OF WORLD HERITAGE MOVEMENT AND INCLUDES
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EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION OF WORLD'S GEOGRAPHICAL AND
CULTURAL AREAS.

2. POSITION.,

A. USDEL SHOULD SEEK THROUGH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS US ELECTION TO WHC AND SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF OTHER NATIONS WHICH, BY PREVIOUS EXAMPLE, HAVE DEMONSTRATED DEDICATION TO PRESERVATION OF THEIR OWN NATIONAL HERITAGE AND ARE CAPABLE OF INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP THIS AREA.

B. USDEL SHOULD CONVEY TO OTHER STATES PARTIES US INTENTION TO SEND TO WHC MEETINGS PROFESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES EMINENTLY QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS AND EVALUATE MATTERS RELATING TO NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SHOULD URGE OTHER MEMBERS TO STRIVE FOR SUCH PROFESSIONAL BALANCE IN THEIR OWN REPRESENTATION.

C. IF QUESTION ARISES RE U. S. CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD HERITAGE FUND (WHF), USDEL SHOULD INFORM PARTICIPANTS THAT, DESPITE INABILITY US CONTRIBUTE TO FUND AT PRESENT TIME, US REMAINS COMMITTED TO WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION.

D. USDEL SHOULD URGE THAT FIRST SUBSTANTIVE MEETING OF WHC BE SCHEDULED DURING FIRST QUARTER 1977 AND THAT UNESCO SECRETARIAT MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMPLISH THIS.

E. USDEL SHOULD REAFFIRM CENTRAL FUNCTIONAL ROLE OF INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (IUCN), INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF MONUMENTS AND SITES (ICOMOS), AND ROME CENTER IN ADVISING WHC AND IN IMPLEMENTING ITS DECISIONS AND SHOULD OPPOSE ANY MOVES TO ESTABLISH DUPLICATIVE BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURES IN UNESCO FOR THESE PURPOSES.

F. USDEL SHOULD URGE WHC CONSIDER AT FIRST MEETING IN 1977 DRAFT DOCUMENTATION FOR SELECTION OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES PREPARED BY IUCN AND ICOMOS AND THAT SECRETARIAT SEEK ADVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REVIEW ON EACH DOCUMENT BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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PROPER INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, AND PRIVATE GROUPS SO THAT THEY MAY BE DISTRIBUTED TO SIGNATORIES PRIOR TO FIRST WHC MEETING.

G. USDEL MAY DRAW ON DISCUSSION FOR GUIDANCE AND TALKING POINTS.

3. DISCUSSION

A. WE ANTICIPATE NO SERIOUS OBSTACLES TO US BEING ELECTED TO WHC DESPITE THE FACT THAT US IS NOT NOW ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO WHF. WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION WAS US

INITIATIVE. US IS WORLD LEADER IN INCEPTION AND SPREADING OF NATIONAL PARK IDEA AND IN CULTURAL PRESERVATION. US IS ALSO IMPORTANT SOURCE OF TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND TRAINING.

B. US POSITION TOWARD OTHER CANDIDACIES MUST STRIKE BALANCE BETWEEN POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND INTEGRITY OF WHC. LIST OF STATES PARTIES TO CONVENTION INCLUDES WIDE SPECTRUM OF NATIONS -- FROM DEVELOPED TO DEVELOPING, FROM DEMOCRATIC TO AUTHORITARIAN, FROM NEWLY EMERGING TO LONG ESTABLISHED NATIONAL IDENTITIES, AND MOST RELEVANT THIS ISSUE FROM VARYING DEGREES OF COMMITMENT TO PRESERVATION OF MAN'S HERITAGE. THIS ALL POINTS TO NECESSITY FOR FORMULA FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REFLECTING THIS DIVERSITY.

C. AT SAME TIME, HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WISH LOSE SIGHT OF INTEGRITY OF WORLD HERITAGE MOVEMENT AS EXPRESSED IN MAKE-UP OF WHC. SOME CRITICISMS HAVE BEEN VOICED THAT OVER-RIDING INTEREST AMONG MOST OF NATIONS WHICH HAVE RATIFIED CONVENTION LIES IN EXPECTATION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH WHF. THESE MIGHT APPEAR TO BE VALID IF SIZEABLE PORTION OF WHC MEMBERS WERE ALSO PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE UNDER TERMS OF CONVENTION. IN ORDER PRESERVE DIGNITY AND INTEGRITY WHC, CANDIDATE STATES SHOULD HAVE DEMONSTRATED THAT THEIR INTEREST IN WORLD HERITAGE PRINCIPLE IS GENUINE.

D. FOLLOWING THREE BASIC CRITERIA MAY BE HELPFUL IN EVALUATING CANDIDATES FOR WHC: (1) NEED FOR GEOGRAPHICAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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BALANCE, (2) BALANCE IN LEVELS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, (3) DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENTS, DOMESTICALLY, TO CONCEPTS OF PRESERVATION, THROUGH NATIONAL PARKS, CULTURAL SITES, AND SIMILAR RESERVES. BASED ON THESE CRITERIA, FOLLOWING COUNTRIES COULD WELL BE SUPPORTED FOR ELECTION TO WHC -

(1) CANADA (BUT NOT AT US EXPENSE). DEVELOPED NATION WITH IMPRESSIVE RECORD IN PROTECTING ITS NATURAL HERITAGE, CANADA HAS 28 NATIONAL PARKS TOTALING OVER 50,000 SQUARE MILES AND HAS OVER 50 PROVINCIAL PARKS.

(2) AUSTRALIA. DEVELOPED WITH OVER 205 NATURAL PARKS AND RESERVES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.

(3) ECUADOR. DEVELOPING. ONLY LATIN AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE. GALAPAGOS NATIONAL PARK IS WORLD FAMOUS AND MAY BE QUALIFIED FOR WORLD HERITAGE STATUS.

(4) EGYPT. DEVELOPING. HAS DEMONSTRATED GREAT INTEREST IN PARKS, MOSTLY HISTORICAL. GEOGRAPHICAL CRITERIA MOST

IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF ITS POSITION OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP.

(5) IRAN. DEVELOPED. HAS ESTABLISHED SIX NATIONAL PARKS AND 6 PROTECTED RESERVES AND IS PLANNING MORE ADDITIONS.

(6) MOROCCO. DEVELOPING. CHOSEN AS BEST REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS REGION. HAS SEVERAL NATIONAL PARKS AND HAS MADE PROGRESS IN PROTECTING RARE WILDLIFE.

(7) PAKISTAN. DEVELOPING. BEST REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS REGION. IS PRESENTLY ESTABLISHING NATIONAL PARK PROGRAM. RECIPIENT OF US TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PURPOSE. CONCERNED WITH PROTECTION OF TROPICAL JUNGLES AND WILDLIFE.

(8) ZAIRE. DEVELOPING. CONSERVATION LEADER IN AFRICA. SEVEN NATIONAL PARKS (THREE OVER ONE MILLION HECTARES EACH) AND EXTENSIVE EFFORTS TO PROTECT RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.

(9) NIGER. DEVELOPING. "W" NATIONAL PARK IS CONTIGUOUS WITH PARKS IN THREE OTHER COUNTRIES, FORMING ONE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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WORLD'S LARGEST PROTECTED RESERVES.

(10) GHANA. DEVELOPING. FIVE NATIONAL PARKS AND A DEMONSTRATED COMMITMENT TO WILDLIFE PROTECTION AND FOREST ECOLOGY.

(11) SUDAN. DEVELOPING. TWO NATIONAL PARKS (ONE OVER TWO MILLION HECTARES) AND THREE GAME RESERVES.

(12) YUGOSLAVIA. DEVELOPED. THIRTEEN NATIONAL PARKS, INCLUDING WORLD FAMOUS PLETVICE LAKES.

(13) FRANCE. DEVELOPED. EIGHT LARGE NATIONAL PARKS PLUS MANY HEAVILY USED REGIONAL PARKS, AS WELL AS NUMEROUS CULTURAL/HISTORICAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS.

(14) POLAND. DEVELOPED. NATURE PROTECTION CAN BE SAID TO HAVE ORIGINATED IN POLAND BECAUSE OF ITS EARLY EFFORTS TO PROTECT EUROPEAN BISON. TWELVE NATIONAL PARKS.

E. THIS LIST SEEMS ACHIEVE BALANCE CALLED FOR IN CONVENTION AND ALSO SATISFY US CONCERN FOR WHC'S INTEGRITY. EVERY AREA OF WORLD WITH STATES PARTIES TO CONVENTION WOULD BE INCLUDED ON WHC AND COUNTRIES ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING NATIONS SERIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH PROTECTING NATURAL/CULTURAL HERITAGE.

F. IN RATIFYING WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION, US OPTED FOR

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION TO WHF, AS ALLOWED BY ARTICLE 16 (2)
US WILL PROBABLY BE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR ONCE CONGRESS
AUTHORIZES/APPROPRIATES NECESSARY FUNDS. PENDING SUCH
ACTION, US -- IN PRIVATE AND GOVERNMENTAL SECTORS -- STILL
PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN FURTHERING WORLD HERITAGE ACTIVI-
TIES. US, FOR EXAMPLE, CAN TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN ITS
EXTENSIVE FUNDING AND SUPPORT OF IUCN, ICOMOS, AND ROME
CENTER, REPRESENTING ONE SUCH MEANS OF INDIRECT FINANCIAL
SUPPORT FOR WORLD HERITAGE. ALSO BILATERAL TRAINING AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO MANY OF THE 104 NATIONS WITH
NATIONAL PARK SYSTEMS HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL TO DATE. PAST
US SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARD CAMPAIGNS HAS
AMOUNTED TO SOME \$30 MILLION. SUCH INDIRECT CONTRIBUTIONS
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MIGHT WELL BE CONSIDERED IN CALCULATING A NATION'S TOTAL
FINANCIAL COMMITMENT TO WHF.

G. MUCH OF WORLD HERITAGE MACHINERY CAN BE PUT INTO
OPERATION WITH RELATIVELY SMALL AMOUNTS OF MONEY.
NOMINATION AND SELECTION PROCESSES FOR WORLD HERITAGE LIST,
FOR INSTANCE, ARE NEARLY READY FOR OPERATION. THEY CAN
BEGIN TO OPERATE ON AN ONGOING BASIS WITHOUT GREAT
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT,
WHEREAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS HAVE CAPTURED MOST OF PUBLIC
INTEREST SO FAR, THEY ARE REALLY SECONDARY TO WORLD
HERITAGE LIST, I.E. CONCEPT OF WORLD RECOGNITION FOR AREAS
OF UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE. US IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUE
WORLDWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROTECTION OF NATURAL
AREAS BY ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (1973) AND WESTERN
HEMISPHERE CONVENTION FOR NATURE PROTECTION AND WILDLIFE
PRESERVATION (1942).

H. DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY IUCN AND ICOMOS FOR CONSIDERATION
BY WHC INCLUDE CRITERIA FOR SELECTING WORLD HERITAGE SITES,
SUGGESTED FORMS FOR NOMINATION OF PROPERTIES AND FOR
REQUESTING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE, AND ORDERS OF
PRIORITIES FOR GRANTING SUCH ASSISTANCE. IN EACH CASE,
DUAL SETS OF DOCUMENTS, APPLICABLE TO BOTH NATURAL AND
CULTURAL AREAS, WERE PREPARED WITH US ASSISTANCE BY IUCN
AND ICOMOS RESPECTIVELY. THEIR ADOPTION BY WHC IS
NECESSARY PRECONDITION TO IMPLEMENTATION OF WORLD HERITAGE
PROGRAM.

4. USDEL GARVEY MAY ALSO WISH SUPPLEMENT ABOVE DISCUSSION
SECTION, WHICH EMPHASIZES NATURAL HERITAGE, WITH CITATIONS
OF US LEADERSHIP EFFORTS IN CULTURAL PRESERVATION. ROBINSON

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